

810-3-61-.06 Notice of Nonpublic School to the Department of its Intention to Participate in the Scholarship Program. (NEW RULE)

(1) Scope. Act 2013-64, as amended by Act 2013-265, imposes eligibility requirements on nonfailing public schools and nonpublic wishing to receive scholarship grants for eligible students. Further it limits eligibility for the parent tax credit pursuant to Section 8 of the Act to nonfailing public schools outside the resident school district and to nonpublic schools notifying the Department of their intention to participate in the scholarship program. This rule prescribes the procedure for a nonpublic school to apply for participation in the scholarship program.

(2) The Department will create a web-based portal where nonpublic schools wishing to participate in the scholarship program may register their intent with the department. Registration is not required of nonfailing public schools desiring to participate in the program.

(3) A nonpublic school registering with the department must indicate that it is willing to abide by all statutory and regulatory requirements of the program, and that it is willing to file and furnish all forms and information required by the SGO and the Department including financial and academic information, as well as all other required information.

(4) A nonpublic school registering with the department must furnish the name of the regional accrediting agency by which it is accredited.

(5) If the nonpublic school is not accredited by one of the six regional accrediting agencies, then it must provide the following:

(a) The address of the school's web site that describes the school and its instructional programs.

(b) Years in existence (which must be at least three years).

(c) Average daily attendance for each of the last two years.

(d) Number of days in the school year {which must be at least 180 days or the hourly equivalent of 180 days}.

(e) Length of the school day (minimum of six and one-half hours).

(f) The number of Carnegie credits required of students in grades 9-12 before graduation.

(g) The number of such Carnegie credits required in core subjects.

(h) A statement as to whether the school has in place a requirement for the

completion of courses in Health & Physical Education, Fine Arts, Computer Studies and Foreign Language for students in grades 9-12 before graduation.

(i) A statement as to whether the school requires the Stanford Achievement Test, or its equivalent of all students.

(j) A statement as to whether the school requires all candidates for graduation to take the American College Test.

(k) A statement as to whether the school allows special education students to follow an individual plan of instruction that is different from regular education students.

(6) The Department will create a web-based listing of the participating nonpublic schools, and the SGO must ensure that a nonpublic school is listed before a scholarship award is paid to the nonpublic school for an eligible student.

(7) The Department will create a web-based listing of the accredited nonpublic schools registered for participation in the scholarship program. Parents of public school students transferring the students to these schools may be eligible for the parent tax credit pursuant to Section 8 of the Act.

Author: Curtis Stewart

Authority: Sections 40-2A-7(a)(5) and 16-16D-1, Code of Alabama 1975

History: